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John Dinan

*Nebraska Game and Parks Commission*

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# 1994 AND 1995 SURVEYS OF BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES IN NEBRASKA

John Dinan, Nongame Bird Program Manager with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, supplied the information for the 1994 (January 1-15) and 1995 (January 4-18) National Wildlife Federation surveys.

Conditions for 1994 survey: Temperatures 20 to 50° F Jan. 1-5, and from -5 to 45° F Jan. 6-10; light to moderate snow cover in the panhandle, 2-4" of snow in the northeast, and none in the rest of Nebraska. Niobrara River had ice cover up to 80-95% in some reaches; Missouri River was flowing with 50-75% slush; other rivers surveyed by air were mostly ice-free. Larger reservoirs, i.e. Harlan and Lake McConaughy, had some ice cover in protected bays and at the upper ends, but the main areas were open. The rest of the lakes and smaller reservoirs had ice-cover ranging from 40 to 100%.

Conditions for 1995 survey: Temperatures -5 to 25° F. Niobrara River had ice cover up to 98%; Missouri River was flowing with 40-60% slush; Platte River had 10-100% ice cover; other rivers surveyed were mostly ice-covered; most reservoirs were predominantly ice-covered; Lake McConaughy approx. 40% ice-covered.

There were 30 Golden Eagle sightings in Nebraska in 1994 and 35 sightings in 1995. They were distributed in the following areas: North Platte River: Bayard-Lisco (1, '95), Lisco-Lewellen (3, '94), Lewellen-Keystone (area lakes) (6, '94); North Loup River: Burwell to mouth (1, '94); Middle Loup River: Thedford-Milburn (1, '94); Niobrara River: Snake River-Cornell (2, '95), Redbird/Lynch-Missouri River (1, '95); Missouri River: Gavins Point-Goat Island (7, '95); Other Areas: Blue Creek (2, '95), Beaver Creek (4, '94), Frenchman (1, '94); and in the following counties: Dawes (4, '94, 1, '95); Dundy (2, '94, 1, '95); Greeley (1, '95); Keith (5, '95); Polk (1, '95); Sheridan (3, '94, 6, '95); Sioux (3, '94, 6, '95); Thomas (1, '95); and Wheeler (2, '94).

The 1994 total of 1163 Bald Eagles was a 67% increase over the 1993 count of 698, and a 56% increase over the 1980-1994 average of 744. The 1995 total of 749 Bald Eagles was a 36% decrease from the 1994 count and a less than 1% increase over the 1980-1995 statewide average of 744 Bald Eagles.

Further information may be obtained from John Dinan, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 2200 N. 33rd St., Lincoln, NE 68503-0370.

The data on Bald Eagles is presented in the tables on the following pages. Imm. = immature, NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

## TABLES ON BALD EAGLES IN NEBRASKA

National Wildlife Federation survey. First number in each cell is January, 1994 count, and second number is January, 1995 count, but year is given in parentheses if observations are restricted to one year.

	Adults	Imm.	Total
<b>North Platte River Totals</b>	<b>72, 59</b>	<b>24, 23</b>	<b>96, 82</b>
Wyoming Line-Bayard (Area Lakes)	9, 13	3, 10	12, 23
Bayard-Lisco	7, 4	0, 1	7, 5
Lisco-Lewellen	6, 9	9, 7	15, 16
Lewellen-Keystone (Area Lakes)	34, 23	10, 4	44, 27
Keystone-Paxton	7, 7	2, 1	9, 8
Paxton-North Platte	9, 3	0, 0	9, 3

<b>South Platte River Totals</b>	<b>10, 10</b>	<b>6, 4</b>	<b>16, 14</b>
Colorado Line-Big Springs *	1, 1	0, 0	1, 1
Big Springs-Paxton	3, 2	1, 0	4, 2
Paxton-North Platte, Tri-Co. Div.	6, 7	5, 4	11, 11

\* Correction in NBR 61 (1), 1993, p. 22. Colorado Springs should be Colorado Line.

<b>Platte River Totals</b>	<b>195, 93</b>	<b>54, 29</b>	<b>249, 123*</b>
North Platte-Gothenberg (Lake, Canal)	23, 4	6, 2	29, 7*
Gothenberg-Darr	8, 14	0, 1	8, 15
Darr-Elm Creek (Lakes, Canal)	104, 12	38, 5	142, 17
Elm Creek-Kearney	15, 3	4, 1	19, 4
Kearney-Shelton	7, 2	0, 3	7, 5
Shelton-Grand Island	5, 1	1, 2	6, 3
Grand Island-Silver Creek	3, 7	0, 0	3, 7
Silver Creek-Columbus	0, 2	0, 1	0, 3
Columbus-North Bend	10, 29	0, 11	10, 40
North Bend-Fremont	3, 6	0, 0	3, 6
Fremont-Linoma	8, 11	2, 2	10, 13
Linoma-Plattsmouth	9, 2	3, 1	12, 3

\* Includes 1 of unknown age in North Platte - Gothenberg region.

	Adults	Imm.	Total
<b>North Loup River, Middle Loup River, &amp; Loup River Totals</b>	<b>45, 66</b>	<b>4, 8</b>	<b>49, 74</b>
Brewster-Burwell (North Loup)	4, 3	1, 0	5, 3
Burwell-mouth (North Loup)	6, 7	0, 0	6, 7
Thedford-Milburn (Middle Loup)	2, 1	0, 0	2, 1
Arcadia-mouth (Sherman Res.) (Middle Loup)	14, 9	2, 4	16, 13
North Loup River-Genoa (Loup R.)	16, 33	1, 1	17, 34
Genoa-mouth (Loup River)	3, 13	0, 3	3, 16

<b>Niobrara River Totals</b>	<b>59, 31</b>	<b>5, 10</b>	<b>64, 41</b>
Snake River-Cornell	16, 6	4, 4	20, 10
Cornell-Cherry Co. Line	6, 12	0, 1	6, 13
Cherry Co. Line-Cuba	15, 4	0, 1	15, 5
Cuba-Newport	8, 2	0, 0	8, 2
Newport-Redbird/Lynch	9, 4	0, 2	9, 6
Redbird/Lynch-Missouri River	5, 3	1, 2	6, 5

<b>Snake River Totals (Hwy 97 bridge-mouth (Merritt Res.))</b>	<b>109, 16</b>	<b>38, 4</b>	<b>147, 20</b>
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<b>Republican River Totals</b>	<b>81, 33</b>	<b>44, 34</b>	<b>125, 75*</b>
Alma-Naponee (Harlan Res.)	75, 33	39, 34	114, 75*
Naponee-Riverton	5, 0	5, 0	10, 0
Riverton-Guide Rock	1 ('94)	0 ('94)	1 ('94)

\* Includes 8 of unknown age in Alma-Naponee (Harlan Res.) region.

<b>Missouri River Totals</b>	<b>229, 107</b>	<b>54, 28</b>	<b>283, 216*</b>
NE Line-Ponca St. Park ('94), -Monowi ('95)	174, 0	41, 0	215, 15*
Monowi-Gavins Pt., Lewis & Clark Lake	0 ('95)	0 ('95)	20* ('95)
Gavins Pt.-Goat Island	41 ('95)	10 ('95)	51 ('95)
Goat Island.-Ponca St. Park	2	1	4*
Ponca St. Park-Homer	1, 7	0, 1	1, 8
Homer-Decatur	2, 1	1, 5	3, 6
Decatur-Tekamah	2, 3	0, 1	2, 4
Tek.-Mormon Bridge (DeSoto NWR)	11, 15	0, 0	11, 15

## Missouri River Region (continued)

Adults Imm. Total

Mormon Bridge-Hwy 275	1, 0	0, 0	1, 0
Hwy 275-Plattsmouth	6, 7	0, 1	6, 8
Plattsmouth-Union	4, 3	0, 1	4, 4
Union-Peru	6, 11	2, 2	8, 13
Peru-Indian State Park	18, 10	2, 0	20, 55*
Indian Cave St. Park-Kansas Line	4, 7	8, 6	12, 13

\* The following numbers of unknown age (all in '95) were included in the total counts: NE Line-Monowi (15); Monowi-Gavins Pt. (20); Goat Island-Ponca St. Park (1); Peru-Indian Cave St. Park (45), making a total of 81, which are included in the grand total.

<b>Reservoirs and Lakes, Totals</b>	<b>42, 35</b>	<b>21, 15</b>	<b>63, 50</b>
Sutherland Reservoir	5, 19	7, 8	12, 27
Lake Maloney	12, 0	5, 0	17, 0
Enders Reservoir	1, 5	1, 0	2, 5
Swanson Reservoir	11, 3	2, 5	13, 8
Red Willow Reservoir	1, 0	0, 0	1, 0
Medicine Creek Reservoir	3, 3	1, 1	4, 4
Calamus Reservoir	7, 3	5, 0	12, 3
Salt Valley Lakes	0, 2	0, 1	0, 3
Walgren Lake	2, 0	0, 0	2, 0

No Bald Eagles seen at Lake Babcock or Lincoln city lakes, '94, '95.

<b>Other Areas, Totals</b>	<b>12, 9</b>	<b>9, 10</b>	<b>21, 19</b>
Blue Creek (Garden Co.)	2 ('95)	0 ('95)	2 ('95)
Grandpa's Pit (Buffalo Co.)	0 ('95)	2 ('95)	2 ('95)
Sac-Wilcox WMA	1, 0	2, 0	3, 0
Sandy Creek NRD	0, 1	0, 0	0, 1
Beaver Creek	10, 4	7, 5	17, 9
Frenchman	1, 2	0, 2	1, 4
Turkey Creek	0 ('95)	1 ('95)	1 ('95)

No Bald Eagles seen at Sidney, Mahon Ranch, Cody Park, Schilling WMA, Funk WMA, or Twin Lakes in '94 or '95, and none at Valentine NWR or Maloney Canal in '95 (not included in '94).

<b>Counties Totals</b>	<b>34, 28</b>	<b>16, 7</b>	<b>50, 35</b>
Boone	3 ('95)	1 ('95)	4 ('95)
Boyd	1 ('95)	0 ('95)	1 ('95)

Counties (continued)	Adults	Imm.	Total
Brown	2 ('94)	0 ('94)	2 ('94)
Cherry	4 ('94)	4 ('94)	8 ('94)
Cuming	4, 2	1, 0	5, 2
Custer	4 ('95)	0 ('95)	4 ('95)
Dawes	1, 0	0, 0	1, 0
Dodge	1 ('95)	0 ('95)	1 ('95)
Furnas	13, 4	6, 4	19, 8
Harlan	2, 3	2, 0	4, 3
Hitchcock	0 ('95)	1 ('95)	1 ('95)
Knox	1 ('95)	0 ('95)	1 ('95)
Nance	2 ('94)	0 ('94)	2 ('94)
Sheridan	0, 1	0, 0	0, 1
Sioux	1, 0	1, 0	2, 0
Stanton	1, 3	0, 1	1, 4
Thayer	2 ('95)	0 ('95)	2 ('95)
Thomas	1 ('95)	0 ('95)	1 ('95)
Wayne	2 ('95)	0 ('95)	2 ('95)
Wheeler	4 ('94)	2 ('94)	6 ('94)

No Bald Eagles were seen in Dundy '94 or '95, and none in Greeley, Keith, or Polk '95 (not included in '94).

<b>Nebraska Totals</b>	<b>888, 487</b>	<b>275, 172</b>	<b>1163, 749*</b>
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\* Includes 90 Bald Eagles of unknown age.